

The Management of India's Wild Life Sanctuaries and National Parks

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PART V

[Continued from Vol. 59(2) : 485]

APPENDIX

The following resolutions on wild life sanctuaries and national parks have been passed by the Indian Board for Wild Life and its Executive or Standing Committee between 1963 and 1965, and are a continuation of those published by me between pages 458-463 in Part IV of this paper [*J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 59 (2), (1962)].

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDIAN BOARD FOR WILD LIFE ON WILD LIFE SANCTUARIES

'The Board reiterated the necessity of using the correct terminology in respect of wild life preservation, and recommended that all sanctuaries should be referred to as "wild life sanctuaries" and not as "game sanctuaries".'

'The Board stressed that in view of the shrinking habitat of wild life due to various inroads into the forest areas, a larger number of sanctuaries and national parks should be established.

'The Board recommended that as far as possible grazing of domestic animals in sanctuaries should be prohibited.

'The Board strongly expressed itself against the violation of the sanctity of national parks and sanctuaries by permitting shooting therein by foreign dignitaries and V.I.Ps. The Board recommended that the prohibition of shooting in national parks and sanctuaries and the prohibition of shooting protected species should apply equally and without distinction to all, including foreign dignitaries and V.I.Ps.

'The Board gave careful consideration to the note forwarded . . . suggesting that the tourists' facilities inside national parks and sanctuaries should be under the control of the Department of Tourism. While recognising the position of national parks and sanctuaries as places

of special tourist attraction, the Board pointed out that their primary function was to ensure the undisturbed existence of the wild life in them. To ensure proper co-ordination in the provision of necessary facilities to the tourists desirous of visiting national parks and sanctuaries, the Board recommended that it was necessary to place the control of tourists' facilities also in the hands of the Forest Departments which were the authorities in charge of the sanctuaries. The Board also observed that the main interest of the tourists was to see wild life in their natural habitat, and the best facilities for this purpose could be given by the sanctuary authorities themselves rather than by any outside agency. The Board, therefore, did not favour dual control on tourist facilities in national parks and sanctuaries.'

[Sixth Session, Dhikala (Corbett National Park) 1965]

'This meeting endorses the various resolutions and recommendations made at the First World Conference on National Parks held at Seattle, Washington, from June 30th to July 7th, 1962, in so far as they apply to India, and draws attention in particular to *Recommendation No. 3* which says *inter alia* that "there is an urgent need to constitute on a world scale a systematic collection of type habitats as varied and representative as possible which could be permanently protected and to serve as standards for the future, and . . . that the appropriate status for these type habitats where possible should be that of strict nature reserves".'

'This meeting endorses the recommendations made at the Project Mar Conference which took place from 12th to 17th November, 1962, in France, which was sponsored by the I.U.C.N., the I.C.B.P. and the I.W.F.R.B., in so far as they apply to India, and draws attention particularly to Recommendation II which says *inter alia* "Whereas wetlands by their natural biological productivity and by their educational, scientific, cultural, economic and recreational values constitute habitats of the greatest importance and interest to humanity and WHEREAS as a result of drainage, industrialization and other changes in land-use these regions are becoming scarcer . . . the Mar Conference RECOMMENDS that Governments make provision for wetland reserves in all national and regional development plans".'

(Special Meeting of Standing Committee held with I.U.C.N. Delegation, New Delhi, 1965)

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDIAN BOARD FOR WILD LIFE ON NATIONAL PARKS

'The National Parks Policy and the Standards of National Parks in India submitted for the approval of the Board were generally approved and adopted.

' The following national parks already in existence have the approval of the Indian Board for Wild Life to remain as such :

- (1) Corbett National Park in Uttar Pradesh
- (2) Kanha National Park in Madhya Pradesh
- (3) Shivpuri National Park in Madhya Pradesh
- (4) Hazaribagh National Park in Bihar

' The Board approved that the following wild life sanctuaries may now be upgraded into national parks by legislation to be enacted in the various States :

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| (1) Manas | Assam |
| (2) Kaziranga | " |
| (3) Jaldapara | West Bengal |
| (4) Periyar | Kerala |
| (5) ¹ Bharatpur | Rajasthan |
| (6) Jaisamand | " |
| (7) Sariska | " |
| (8) ² Taroba | Maharashtra |
| (9) Bandipur | Mysore |
| (10) Mudumalai | Madras |
| (11) ³ Gir | Gujarat (not yet declared a sanctuary) |

' Other areas which may have been called national parks of State significance may be appropriately re-named in order that the standards of national parks may be maintained.'

(Fifth Session, Mysore, 1963)

¹ It was later considered whether Bharatpur should be omitted from this list, because of the shooting rights belonging to the Maharaja there.

² It was later found that Taroba is already being called a national park.

³ The Gir Forest was constituted as a national park in 1966.